REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1 to 14 and 17 to 25.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to include the number of average weights of the glycidyl group containing acrylic copolymer (A') and the carboxylic acid group containing acrylic copolymer (C').

Support for the amendments can be found in paragraphs [0020] and [0021], respectively of U.S. 2006/0166001 A1 (which is the published version of this application).

Support for new claims 22 and 23 can be found at paragraph [0048] of U.S. 2006/0166001 A1.

Support for new claims 24 and 25 can be found at paragraph [0017] of U.S. 2006/0166001 A1.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 4 to 14 and 17 to 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Shoji et al. (JP 57-205458) in view of Daly et al. (U.S. 6,294,610).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims have now been amended to include the number average weights of compounds (A') and (C').

As acknowledged by the Official Action of September 21, 2007 at page 3, Shoji et al. does not disclose the Tg of the polymers. As further acknowledged at page 4 of that Official Action, Shoji et al. and Daly et al. do not specify using at least one low Tg polymer.

The rejections at pages 3 and 4 of the Official Action are moot in view of the above amendments to the claims.

Low gloss coatings of Daly et al. Examples 3 and 4 are obtained by the addition of 10 parts of sebasic acid and a catalyst (D) to the binder comprising 70 parts of a carboxylic acid functional polyester (Ruco 911) (B) and a GMA acrylic copolymer (A).

Nowhere in the documents cited is mentioned or taught how to formulate smooth low gloss coatings from a blend of a carboxyl-functional acrylic polyester along with a carboxyl-functional copolymer and a glycidyl-group containing acrylic copolymer as claimed.

In conclusion, claims 1, 14, 17 and any claims dependent thereon are not obvious in view of Shoji et al. and Daly et al.

Claims 1 to 14 and 17 to 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Shoji et al. (JP 57-205458) in view of Daly et al. (U.S. 6,294,610) in view of Pettit (U.S. 5,202,382).

This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

In the present Official Action, the rejection maintains that Pettit is used solely to teach motivation to have a high Tg and a low Tg polymer blend for powder coatings for improving physical properties.

In reply, please note that in Pettit, the low Tg acrylic copolymer has the same number average weight as the high Tg acrylic copolymer. The compounds according to Example A and B both have a Mn of 3500.

In contrast, in the present invention, a copolymer with low Tg and high Mn (10000-2000) is combined with one having a high Tg and low Mn (2000-5000). Further, please note the Examples and the discussion of the results in paragraphs [0132] to [0133] of U.S. 2006/0166001 A1 (the published version of this application).

None of the documents cited mentions or teaches how to formulate smooth low gloss coatings from a blend of a carboxyl-functional acrylic polyester along with carboxyl-functional copolymer and a glycidyl-group containing acrylic copolymer as presently claimed.

In addition, the rejection has combined teachings for high gloss coatings with teachings for low gloss coatings (see earlier responses) which teachings would not be combined by the art-skilled.

Conclusion

As demonstrated above, essential features of the present claims are neither disclosed or suggested by Shoji et al. and Daly et al. and the deficiencies of these references are not remedied by Pettit.

The claims thus stand novel and unobvious over the cited references, alone or combined.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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